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RESPONSE CALCULATIONS FOR A COMMERCIAL LIGHT - SCATTERING AEROSOL COUNTER

By

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July 1976

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) To adequately assess the effect of atmospheric aerosols on electro-optical and high energy laser systems, particulate size distributions must be measured. Single particle light scattering aerosol particle counters offer some advantages for these measurements. This report presents response calculations for a commercially available light-scattering aerosol particle counter (the Particle Measurement Systems Classical Scattering Aerosol Spectrometer) used by the DoD community for such measurements. The calculations are for spherical particles		

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29. Abstract (cont)

cont → and consider the wavelength of the laser source and the geometry of the light-collecting optics. The results show a strong dependence of the response upon the particle refractive index and multivalued response for particles with diameter greater than 0.8 micrometer. The problem of deconvolution of size distribution information from measurements taken with this instrument is addressed. Several examples of size distribution measurements of atmospheric fog and haze are given to illustrate the significance of the results.

↑

SUMMARY

Mie theory response calculations presented for the Particle Measurement Systems Classical Scattering Aerosol Spectrometer show the particle size resolution for spherical particles of unknown composition to be less than advertised for aerosols with refractive indexes in the range of those of atmospheric aerosols. However, for spherical particles of known composition, these results can be used to group and redefine the particle size channels to avoid regions of multivalued response and thereby optimize the size resolution of the instrument. For particles of mixed composition, only a small number of size channels are justified. Field measurements on atmospheric fog and haze suggest that the response calculations apply to the instrument, although controlled laboratory measurements on uniform aerosols of known composition and size are required for a definitive confirmation of the theoretical response calculations shown here.

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INTRODUCTION

Light scattering aerosol particle counters are used for determination of size distribution and concentration of aerosol particles. These devices work on the principle that as aerosol particles flow through an illuminated volume, light scattered into a particular solid angle by a single particle is measured photoelectrically and is used to determine particle size by electronically classifying response pulses according to their magnitude. Determination of particle size from the response is difficult because of the complicated dependence of the response on particle size, particle index of refraction, the lens geometry of the counter optical system, and for instruments with broadband sources - the phototube spectral sensitivity. These difficulties have been studied previously [1-4] for several aerosol counters including the commercially available Climet, Bausch and Lomb 40-1A, Royco 245, Royco 220, Royco 218, and the Jacobi.

The purpose of this report is to present new light-scattering calculations for the response of an instrument that has recently become commercially available: the Particle Measurement Systems, Inc., Classical Scattering Aerosol Spectrometer (CSAS).

COUNTER RESPONSE CALCULATION

The theoretical response of the CSAS to a particle of a particular size and refractive index can be expressed as a cross section per particle for light scattered into the particular solid angle of the instrument collecting optics. This response is given by

$$\int_{\theta=4^{\circ}}^{\theta=22^{\circ}} \frac{\lambda^2}{4\pi} [i_1(m, x, \theta) + i_2(m, x, \theta)] \sin \theta \, d\theta$$

where λ is the wavelength of the light and $i_1(m, x, \theta)$ and $i_2(m, x, \theta)$ are the angular intensity functions. The above expression integrated over all thetas yields the total scattering cross section. The angular intensity functions depend on m , the complex refractive index of the particle; the particle size parameter x defined as the ratio of the particle circumference to the wavelength; and the scattering angle θ as measured from the direction of forward scattering. The light-collecting solid angle for the CSAS instrument has axial symmetry and is for values of theta from 4° through 22° from the direction of forward scattering. The wavelength is that for a He-Ne laser, 6328\AA .

It is well known that at a particular scattering angle the scattered intensity is an oscillatory function of size parameter so that a single

measurement may not yield a single value of particle size. However, the hope is that averaging of these intensity functions over a considerable range of scattering angles will damp out the oscillations to give a single-valued response curve. It is desirable that the response curves be nearly the same for materials of different refractive index, since in practice the particle composition may not be known.

Response calculations for the CSAS instrument for water particles with refractive index $1.33-0i$, for ammonium sulfate particles with index $1.5-0i$, and for absorbing atmospheric dust particles with indexes $1.50-0.01i$ and $1.5-0.05i$ are shown in Figure 1. The results show a strong dependence of the response upon the particle refractive index and multivalued response for particles with diameter greater than about 0.8 micrometer. The calculated response is obviously sensitive to the particle refractive index for indexes in the range of those of atmospheric aerosols. The seriousness of the multivaluedness is reduced if only a small number of particle size channels are utilized in the multichannel analyzer. Of course, the size resolution of the instrument is reduced accordingly. Based upon these calculations for the range of particulate refractive indexes considered here, the instrument size resolution is 0.9 to 1.6 microns for particles of 1-micron diameter, 3 to 9 microns for particles of 4-micron diameter, and 7 to 17 microns for particles of 10-micron diameter. For comparison, the advertised resolution is $\pm 10\%$ for particles less than 20-micron diameter and ± 2 microns for particles larger than 20-micron diameter.

The manufacturer's calibration for our particular CSAS instrument is given in the table. The corresponding discriminator level settings are indicated by tick marks in Figure 1. There are 15 particle size channels for each "range" of the instrument. Pulse height channels 1, 5, 10, and 15 are labeled between the appropriate tick marks. Changing range is merely an adjustment of an amplifier gain and so has the effect of shifting the range of sensitivity.

Even if the particulates measured are all of the same known composition, there are - on some ranges - discriminator levels set in regions of multivalued response. Nevertheless, size distribution information for such a polydispersion of spherical particles can be determined by reducing the number of channels to avoid these regions. The effects of such a grouping of the particle size channels on the inferred particle size distribution for measurements of atmospheric fog and haze under the assumption that the particles are water droplets are presented in the next section.

SIZE DISTRIBUTION MEASUREMENTS OF ATMOSPHERIC FOG AND HAZE WITH THE CSAS

If spherical particles of known composition are measured with the CSAS, size distribution information may be obtained from the theoretical results

PARTICLE SIZE CHANNEL WIDTHS (Diameter in μm)

FOR THE CSAS-100,

AS SPECIFIED BY THE MANUFACTURER

Channel	Instrument Range			
	1	2	3	4
1	2-4	1-2	0.5-1	0.4-0.65
2	4-6	2-3	1-1.5	0.65-0.9
3	6-8	3-4	1.5-2.0	0.9-1.15
4	8-10	4-5	2.0-2.5	1.15-1.4
5	10-12	5-6	2.5-3.0	1.4-1.65
6	12-14	6-7	3.0-3.5	1.65-1.9
7	14-16	7-8	3.5-4.0	1.9-2.15
8	16-18	8-9	4.0-4.5	2.15-2.4
9	18-20	9-10	4.5-5.0	2.4-2.65
10	20-22	10-11	5.0-5.5	2.65-2.9
11	22-24	11-12	5.5-6.0	2.9-3.2
12	24-26	12-13	6.0-6.5	3.2-3.5
13	26-28	13-14	6.5-7.0	3.5-3.8
14	28-30	14-15	7.0-7.5	3.8-4.1
15	30-32	15-16	7.5-8.0	4.1-4.4

presented here by grouping the particle size channels to avoid problems of multivalued response. This channel redefinition for water particles is shown along with the response curve in Figure 2. The heavy tick marks indicate the redefined channels. The light and heavy tick marks together indicate the advertised channel discriminator levels and are identical to those in Figure 1. The channels are redefined with less size resolution than the response curve dictates because in practice statistical spectra broadening effects result in some channel cross sensitivity. Specifically, even a perfectly monodisperse aerosol results in a range of pulse heights, and identical particles are not counted entirely in one particle size channel. Therefore, setting discriminator levels near regions of multivalued response has been avoided. The recalibration reduces the number of channels for each range from 15 to 7. The redefined channels are not of equal width.

The effect of this recalibration on size distributions of atmospheric fog and haze inferred from measurements with the CSAS is shown in Figures 3 through 13. These particulate size distributions are shown to corroborate our recalibration. According to the response calculation, the manufacturer-advertised calibration may lead to artificial maxima in the inferred size distribution in regions of multivalued response and relative minima between these regions. In regions of multivalued response, particles with a relatively large range of sizes produce response pulses in a small range of pulse heights; whereas, between regions of multivalued response, particles with a relatively narrow range of sizes produce response pulses in a comparable range of pulse heights. Therefore, if the manufacturer's calibration is used, distortion of the real size distribution of a polydispersion of fog or haze to be inferred from measurements with this instrument would be expected. Such artifacts in the distributions would be most noticeable in the form of relative maxima in regions of multivalued response (i.e., at 0.6-1.3, 1.6-2.2 micron radii) and relative minima between these regions (i.e., at about 1.5 micron radius). These distortions could be seen easily only if the pulse height discriminators are set with sufficient resolution.

Examination of the manufacturer calibration-derived size distributions in Figures 3 through 9 show evidence of these artifacts. However, they are not evident in Range 1 data in Figures 10 and 11 since the pulse height discriminators on this setting of the instrument are not set sufficiently close to resolve them. The fact that these relative maxima and minima occur for a variety of very different size distributions suggests that they are artifacts resulting from the Mie resonances in our calculation of the instrument response, since they are not evident in the size distributions determined from the recalibration. It is noteworthy that the overall form of size distribution inferred from the manufacturer calibration and from our redefined calibration is in agreement. Such would not be the case for absorptive particles.

This recalibration scheme has also been applied to a similar model of the CSAS owned by the Night Vision Laboratory which is identical to the instrument studied here except that the pulse height discriminator levels are set differently. Some results of the recalibration on size distribution measurements on atmospheric fog are shown in Figures 12 and 13. The smooth curves are those obtained with the manufacturer calibration and the dashed curves with our recalibration scheme. Measurements made on the four range settings are plotted on one figure since they were made sequentially during relatively stable fog conditions. It is suggested that the plateaus in the manufacturer calibration-inferred size distribution at approximately 1 and 2 micron radius are a result of the multi-valuedness in the response curve in Figure 2.

The effect of this recalibration on particulate extinction cross sections calculated from the size distribution data for 1, 4, and 10 micron radiation depends on the size distribution and on the particular range that the instruments are set on. For a variety of fog and haze measurements, however, the extinction calculated via the redefined calibration versus the manufacturer calibration generally differs by a factor of 50% or less at 1 micron and by a factor of 2 or less at 4 and 10 microns.

The manufacturer has made two comments bearing on the results presented here. One is that the classical scattering instrument (CSAS) is not always produced with the degree of pulse height resolution capable of the particular models studied here. For these instruments the multi-valued response problem may be less important, depending on where the discriminator levels are set. Secondly, the manufacturer says that since the lasers in the instruments operate in multimode, the phase shifts through the beam cause smoothing of the resonances in the response curves, as the scattering process is no longer described exactly by Mie theory. The authors do not think this second comment has validity, although controlled laboratory measurements on uniform aerosols of known composition and size are required for a definitive confirmation of the Mie theory response calculations shown here.

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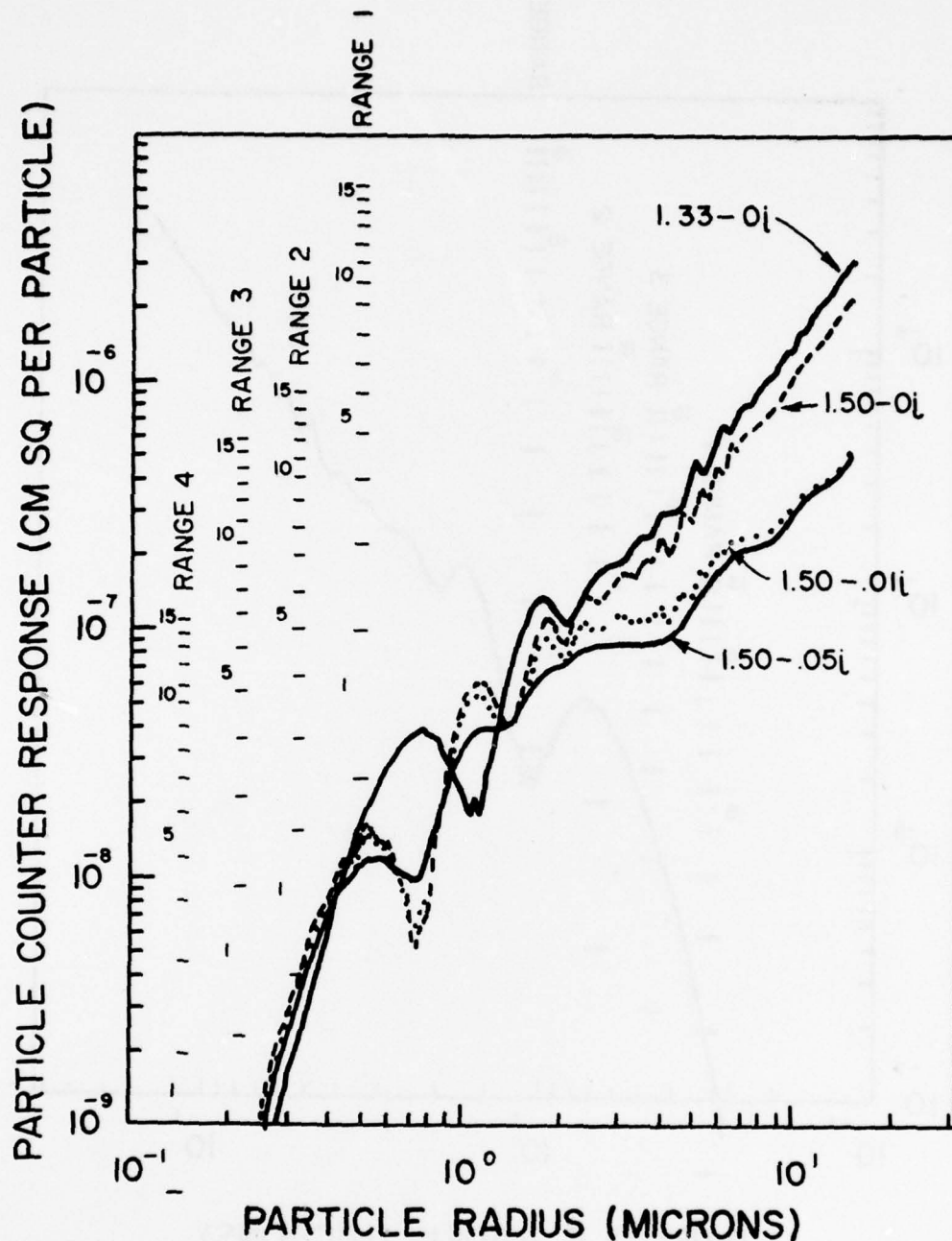


Figure 1. Response calculations for the Particle Measurement Systems CSAS instrument for water particles with refractive index $1.33-0i$, ammonium sulfate particles with refractive index $1.50-0i$, and absorbing atmospheric dust with indexes $1.50-0.01i$ and $1.50-0.05i$. The tick marks indicate the pulse height discriminator level settings for the instrument. Channels 1, 5, and 15 are labeled between the appropriate tick marks for the different range settings of the instrument.

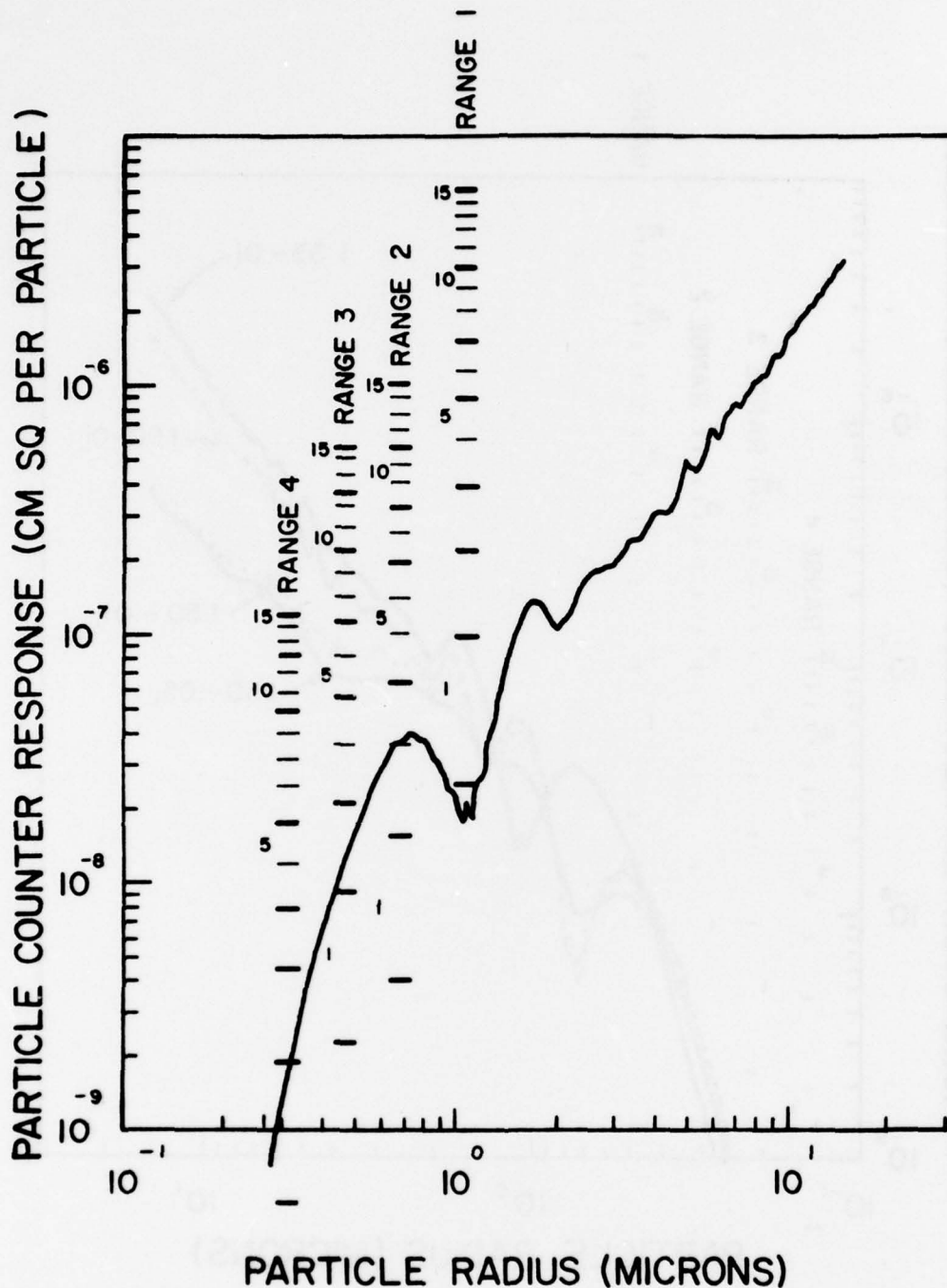


Figure 2. Response calculations for the Particle Measurement Systems CSAS instrument for water particles. The heavy tick marks indicate - for the different instrument ranges - the pulse height discriminator level settings used in grouping channels to avoid regions of multivalued response. The light and heavy tick marks together indicate the manufacturer discriminator level settings and are identical to those in Figure 1. Channels 1, 5, and 15 are labeled between the appropriate tick marks.

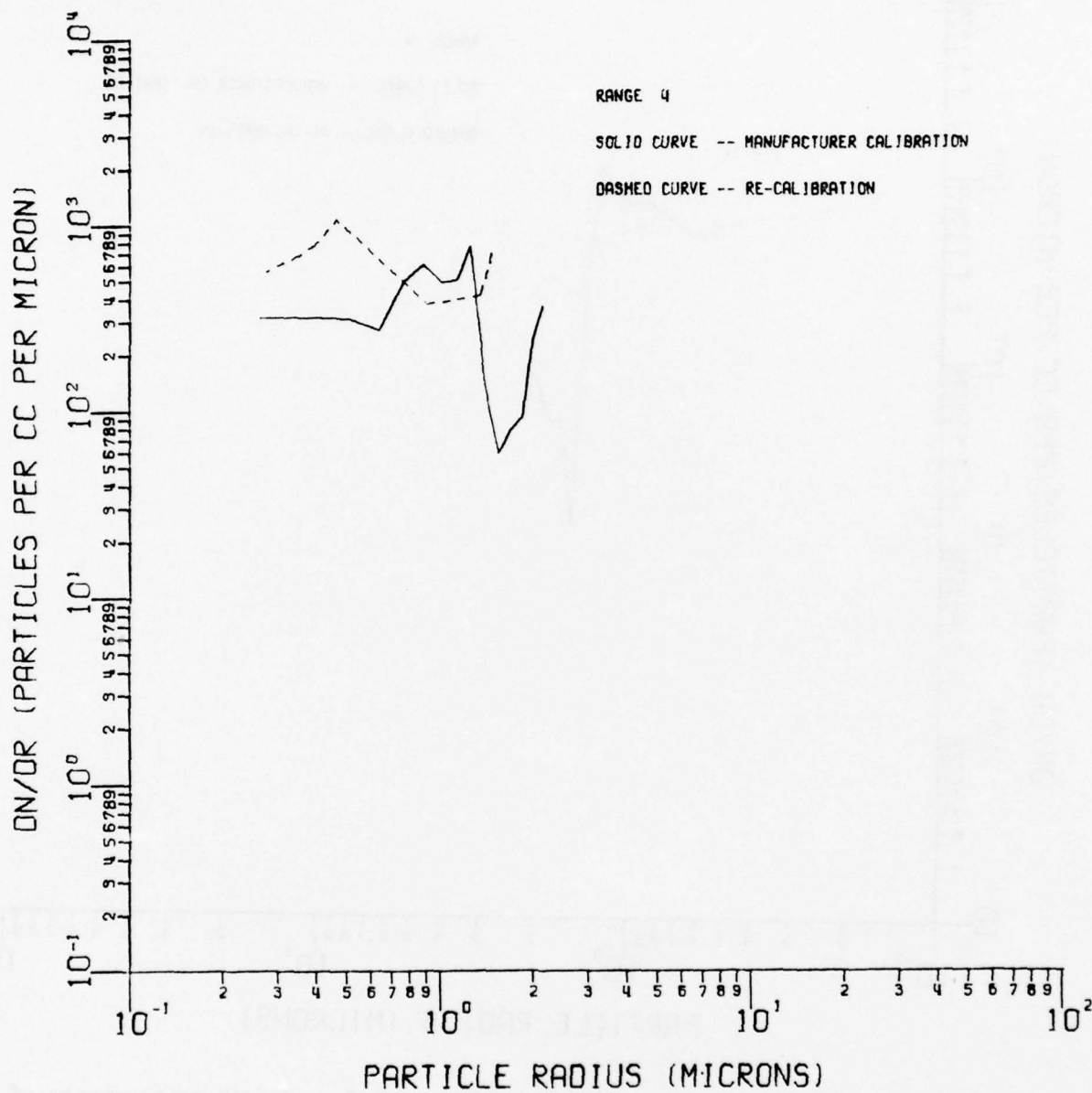


Figure 3. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

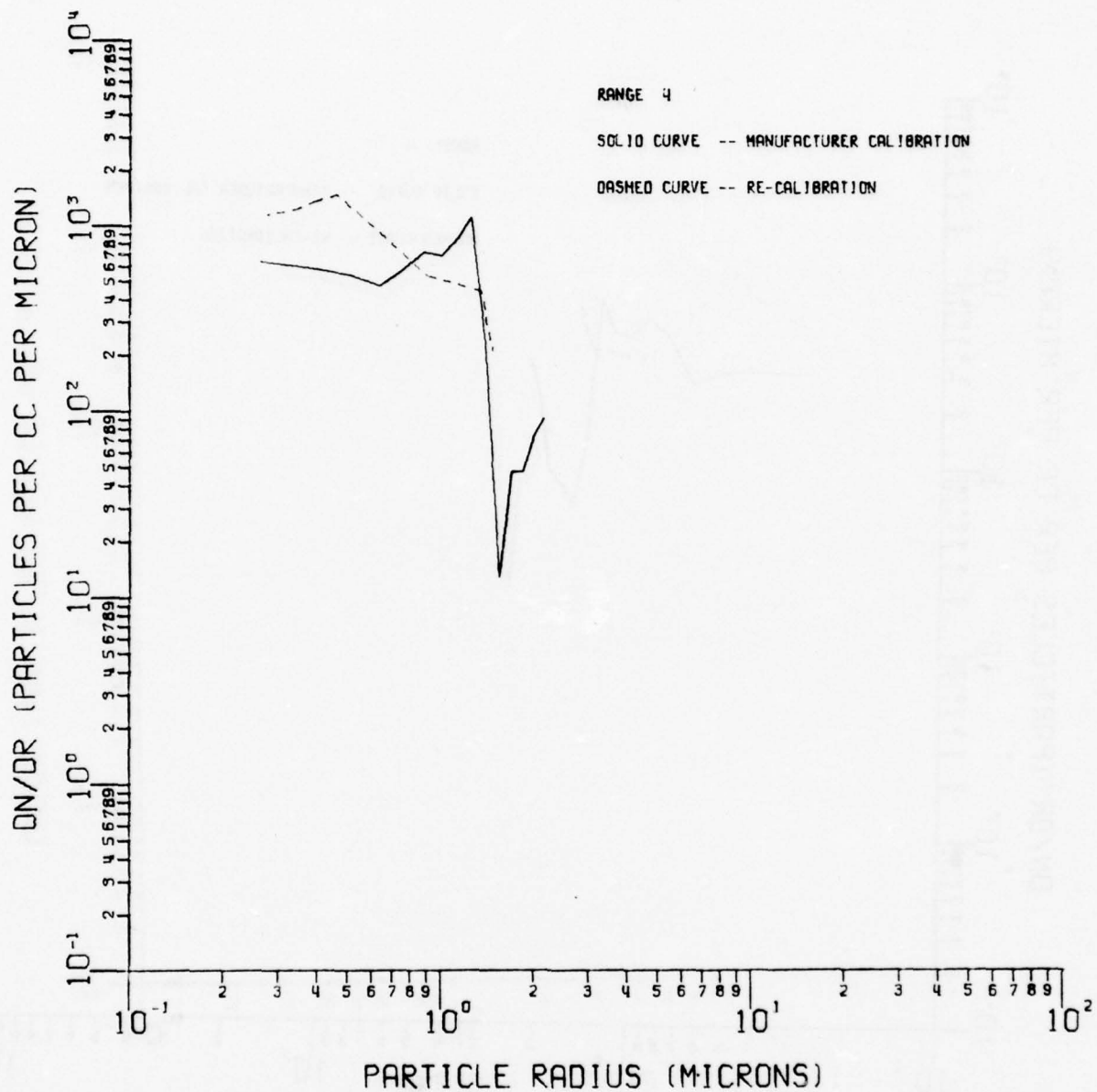


Figure 4. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

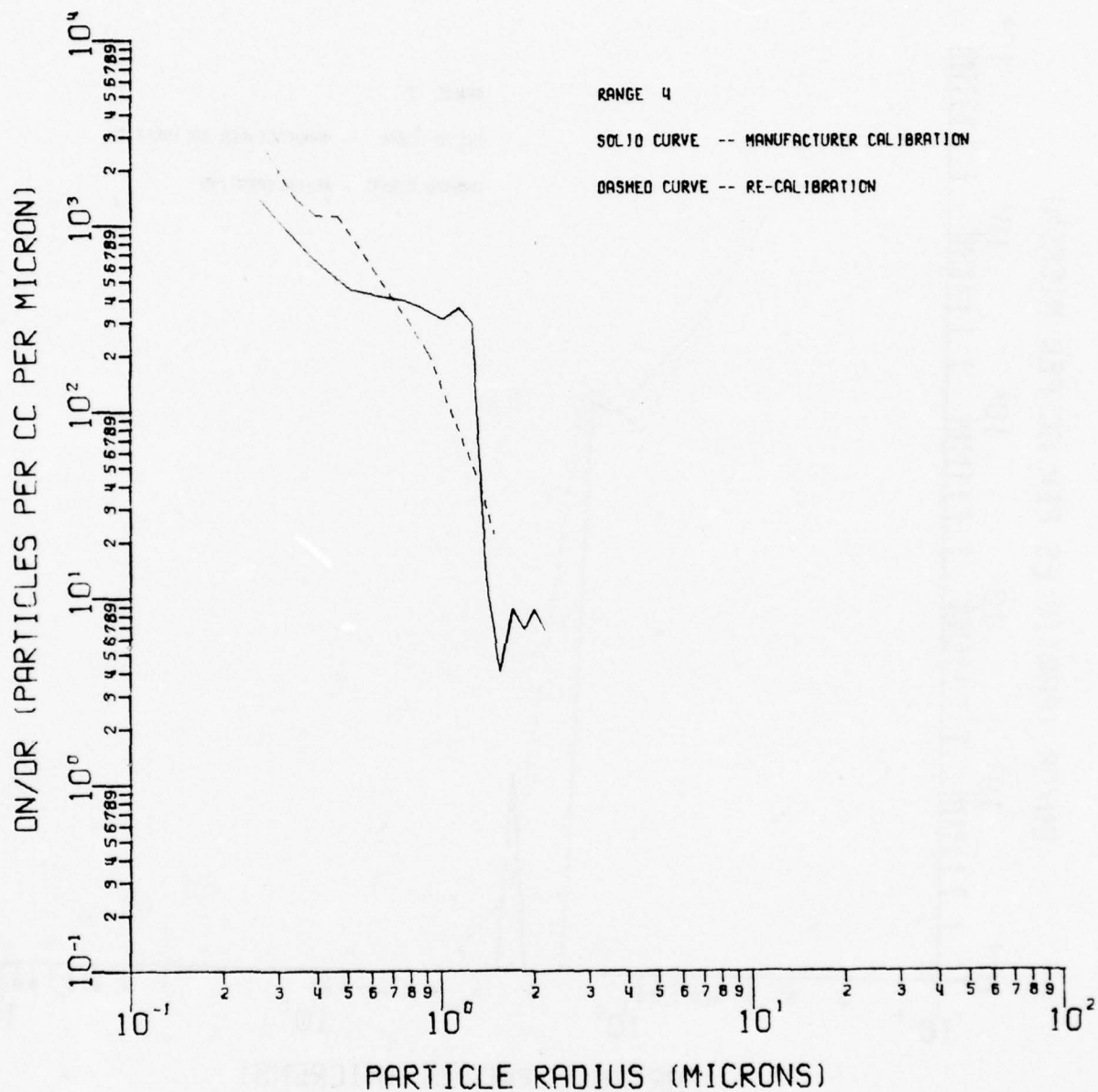


Figure 5. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric haze made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

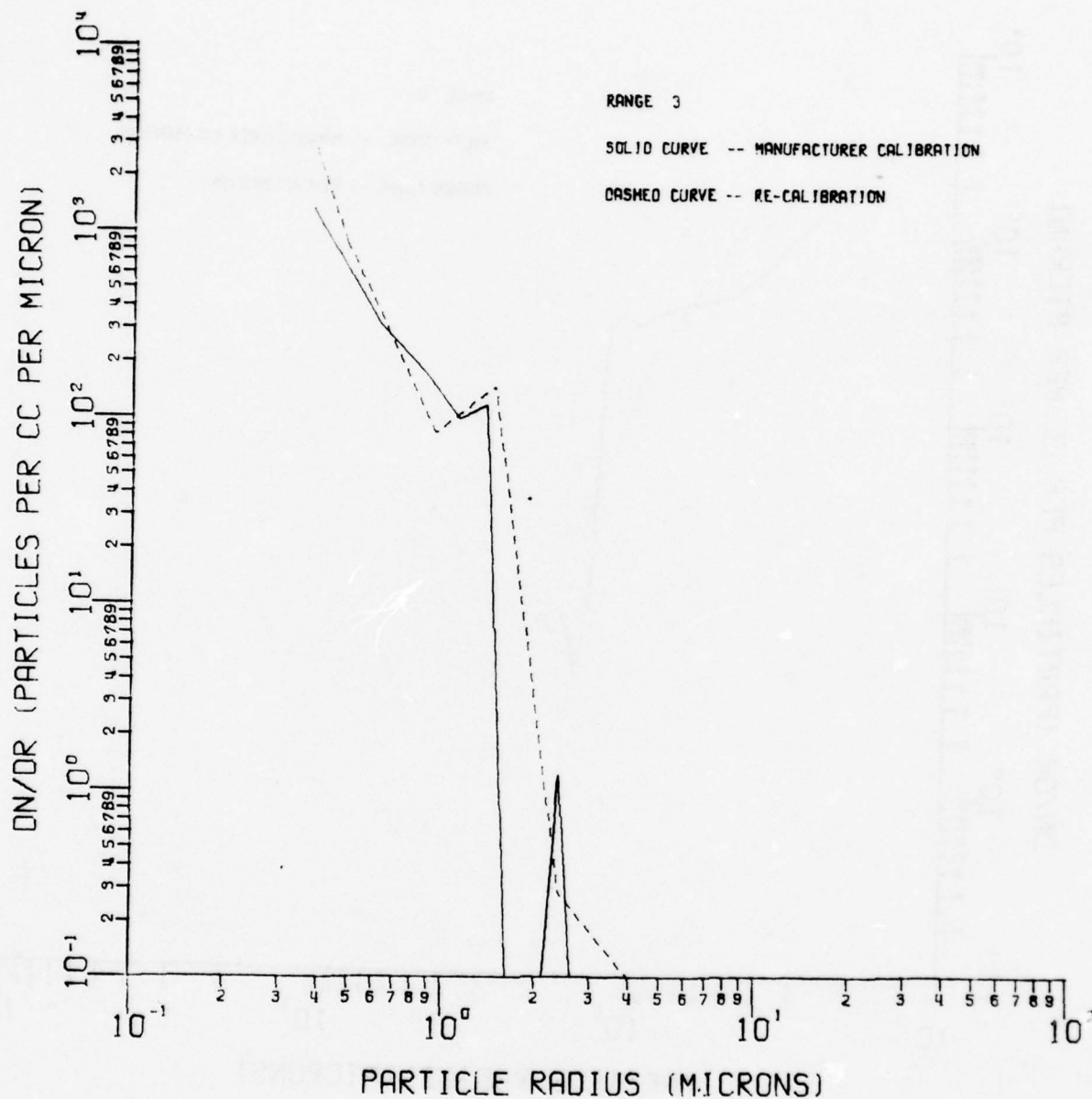


Figure 6. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric haze made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

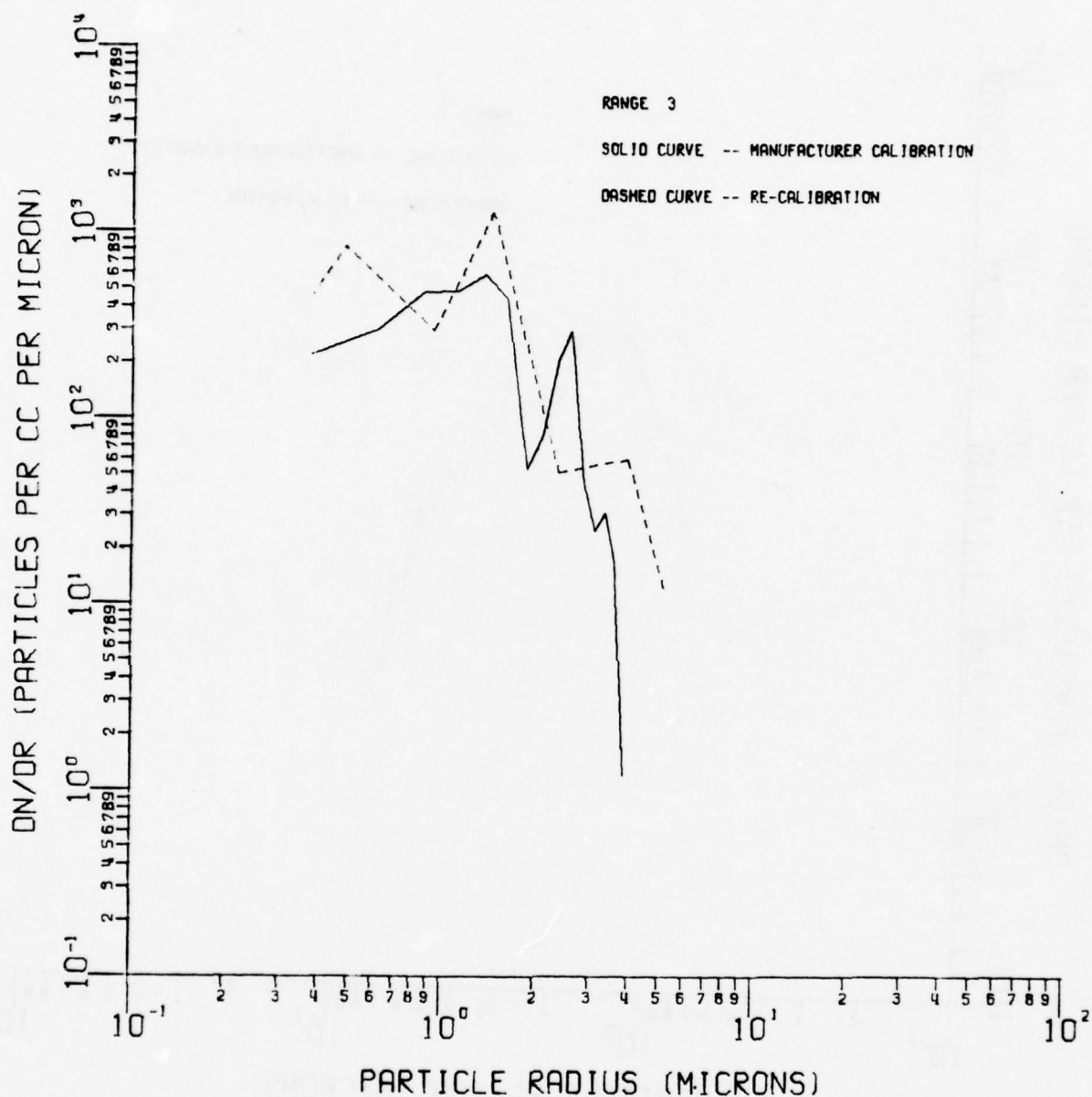


Figure 7. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric haze made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

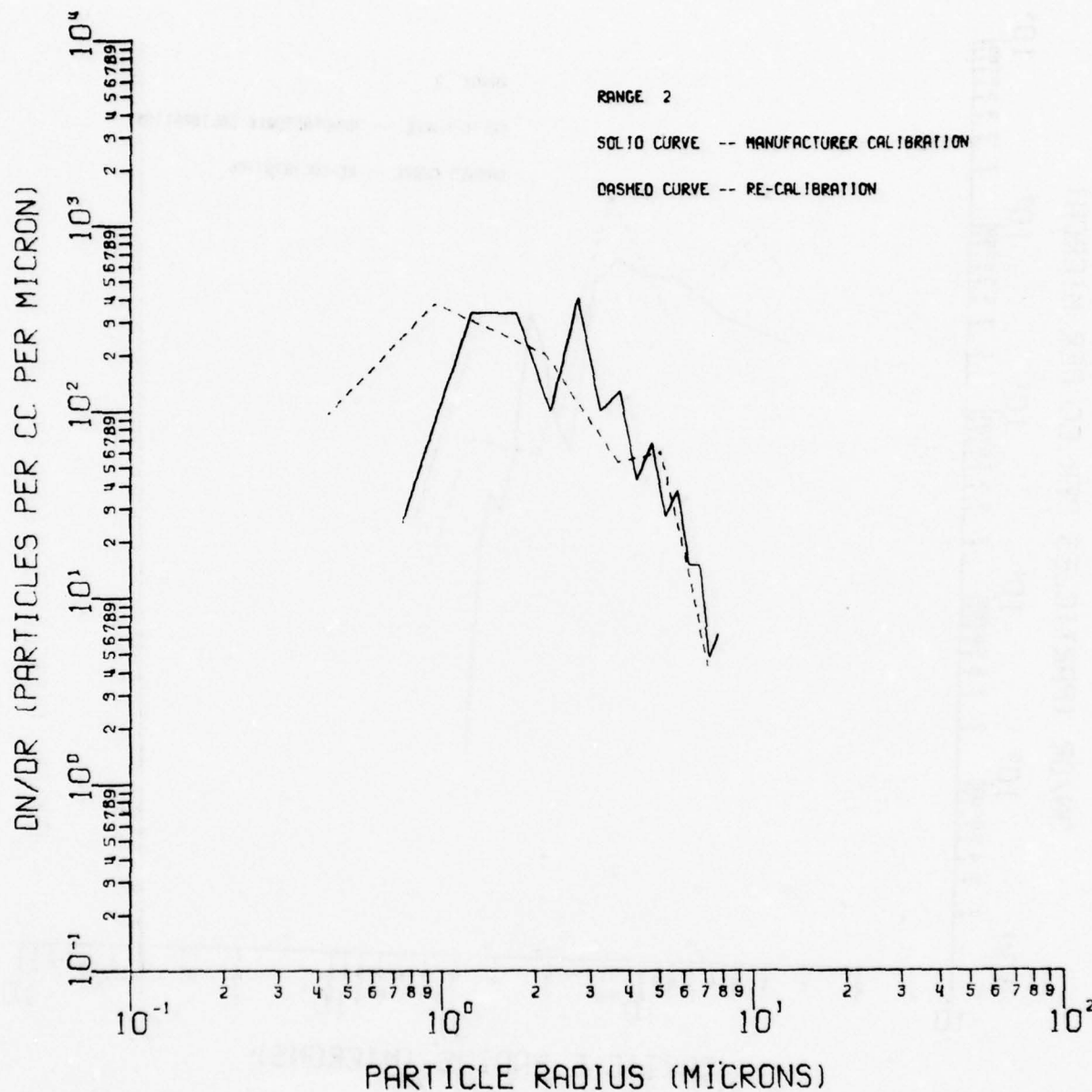


Figure 8. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

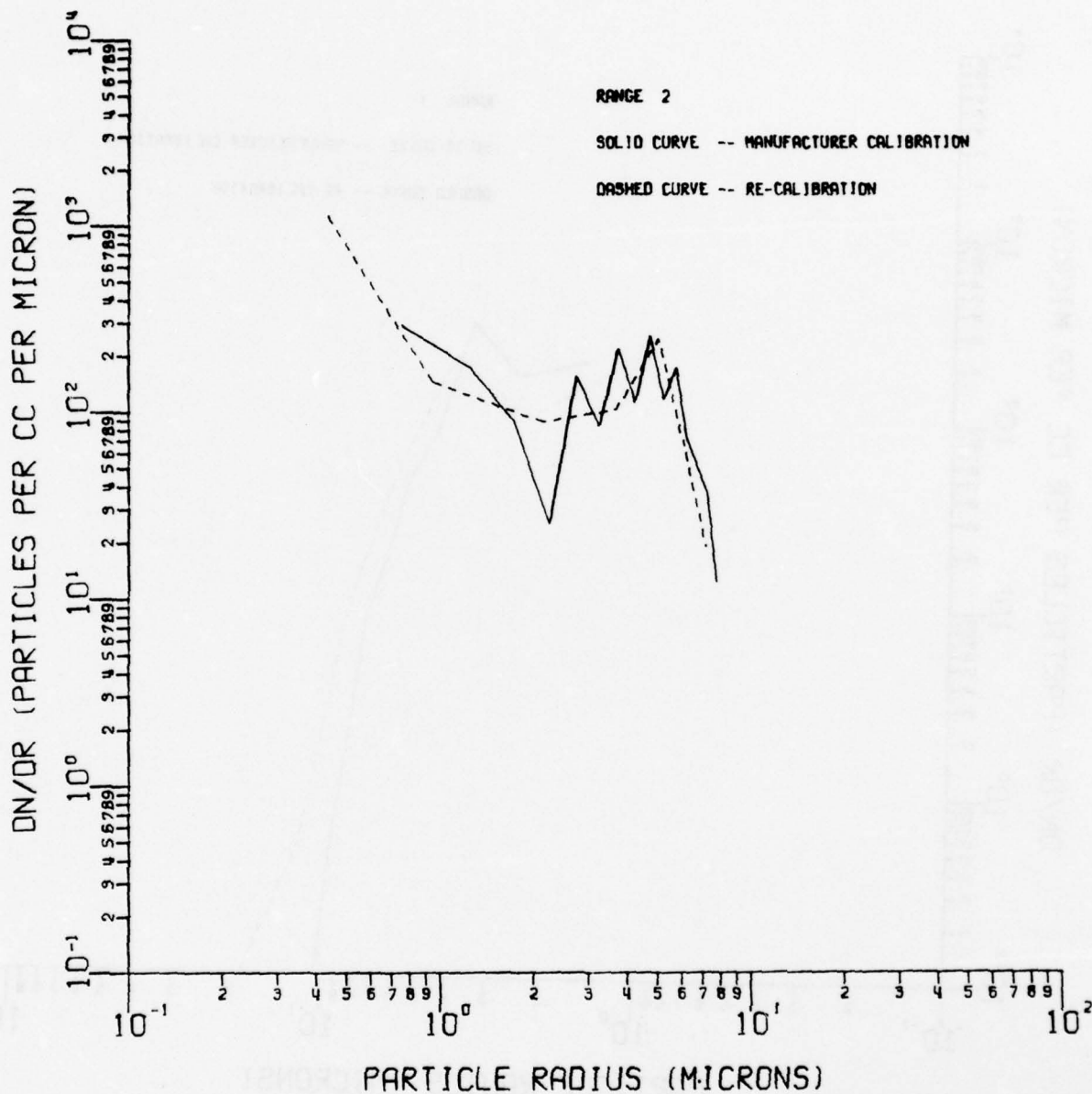


Figure 9. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

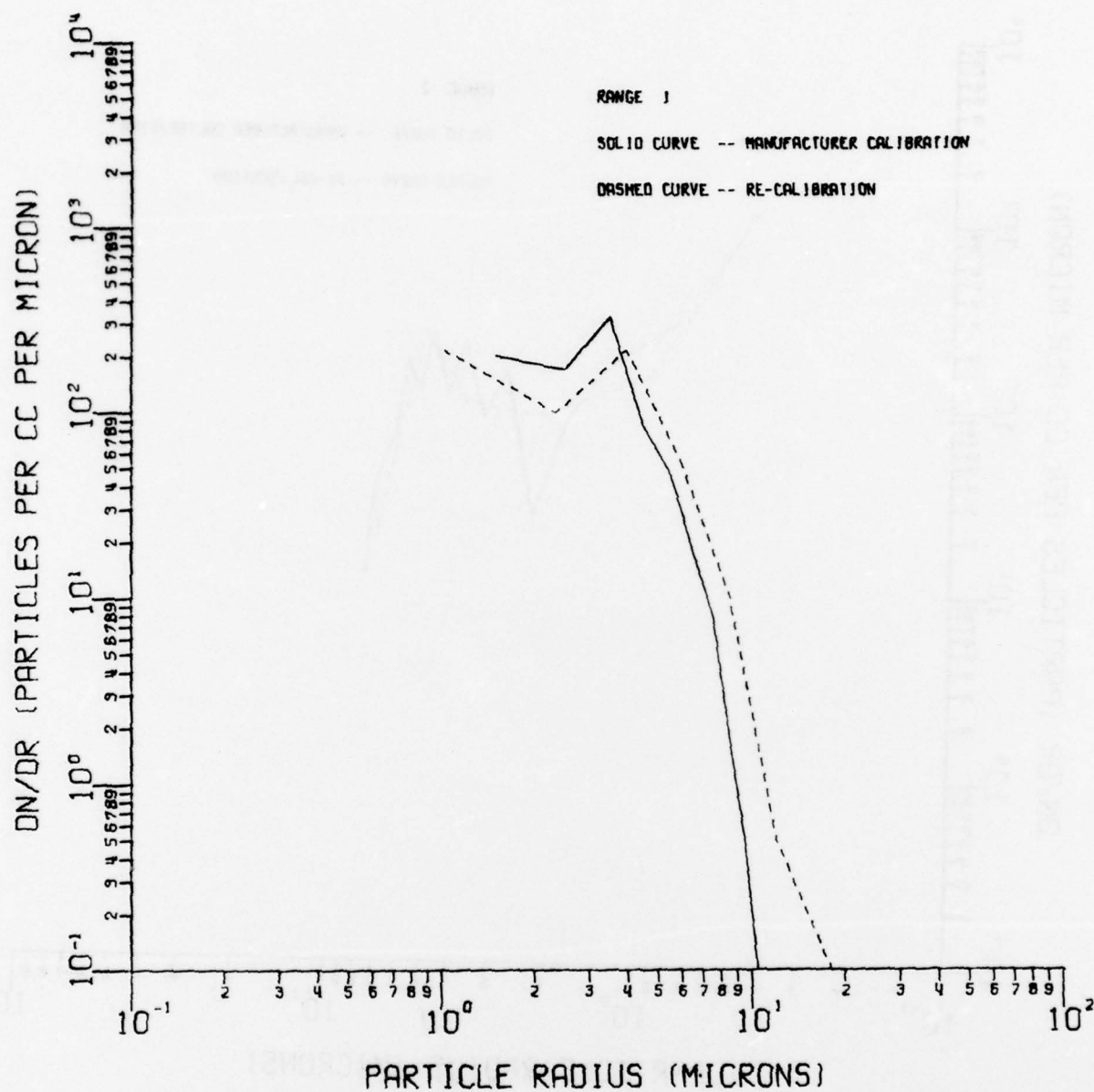


Figure 10. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

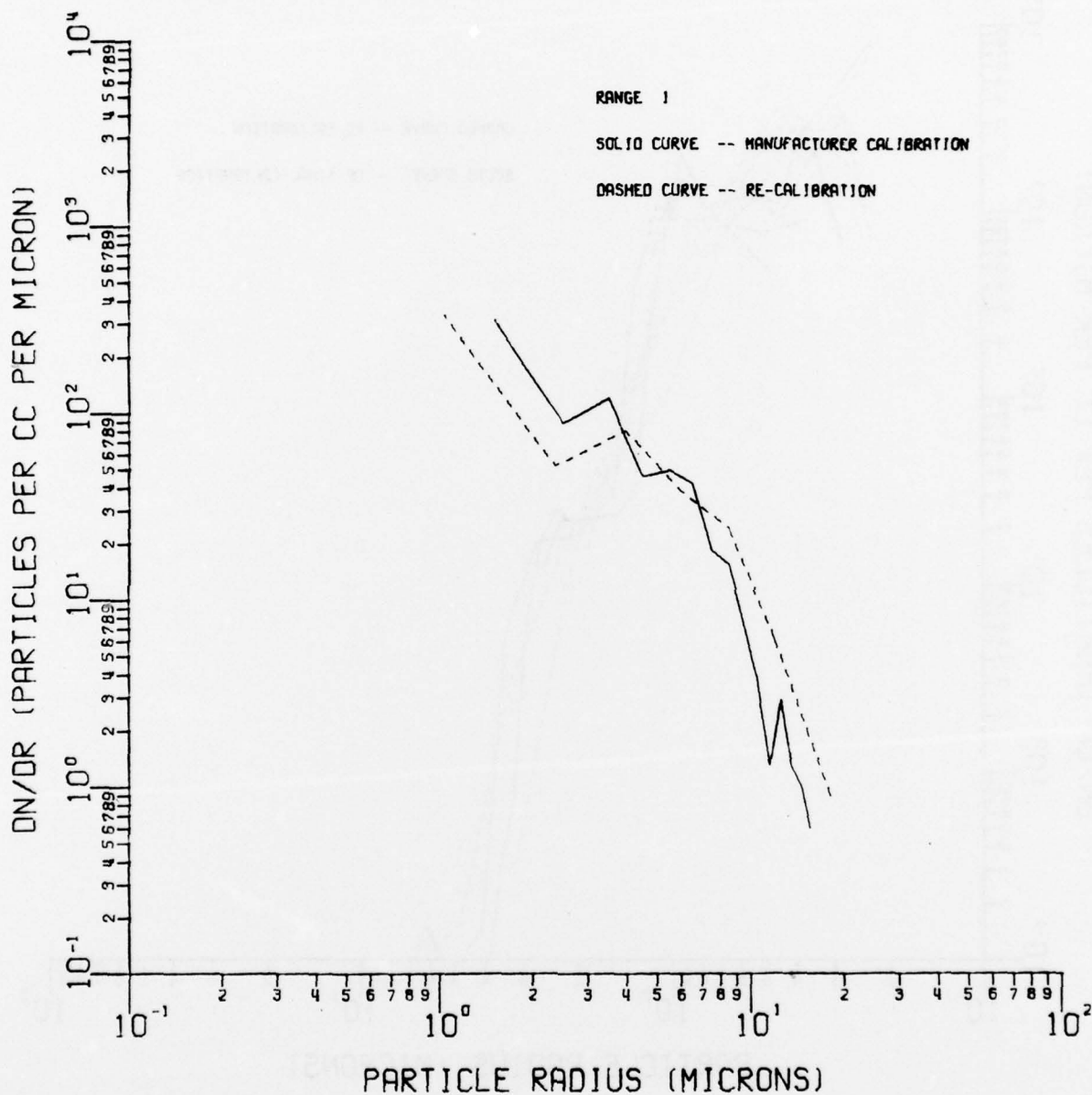


Figure 11. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

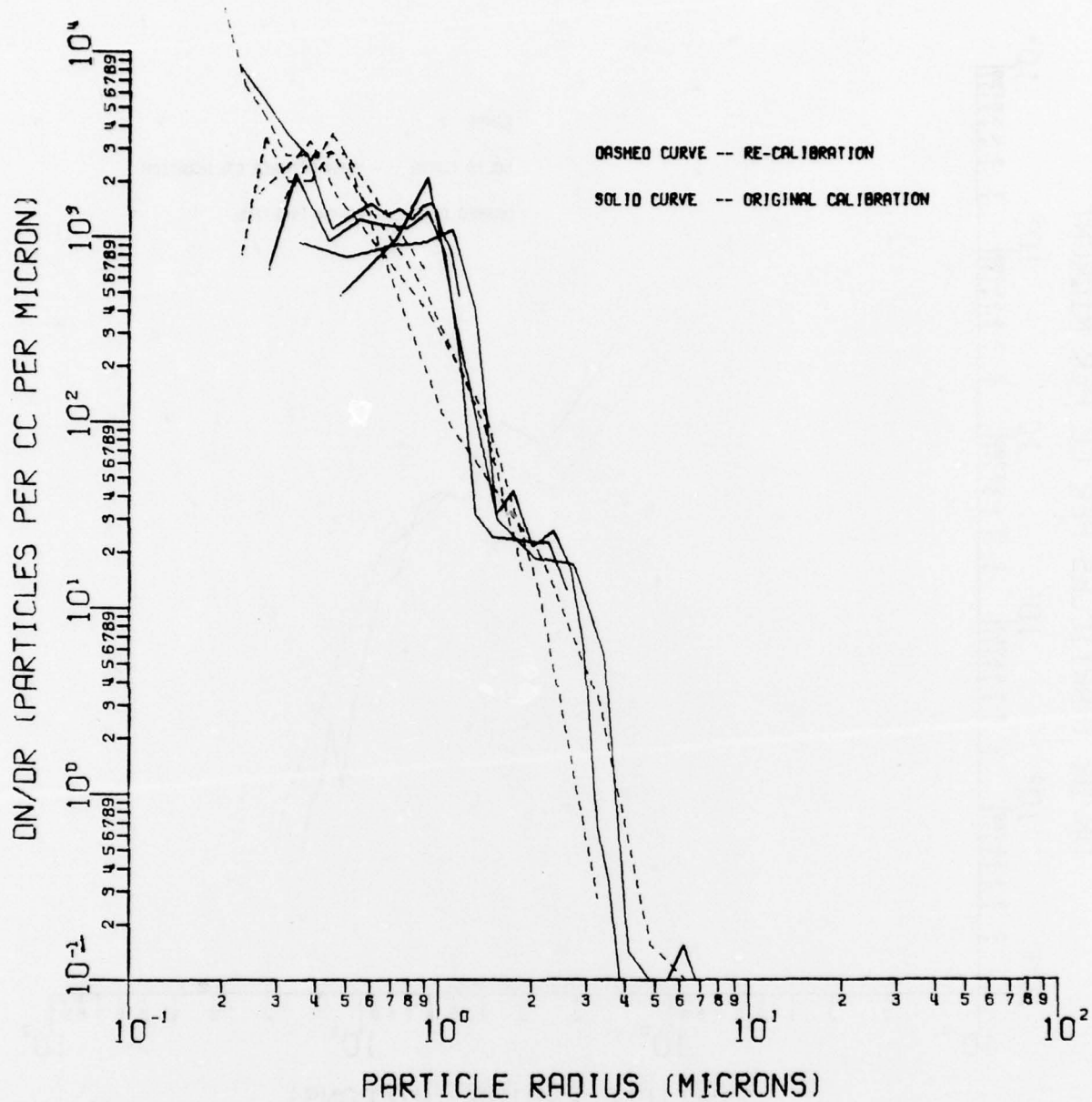


Figure 12. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

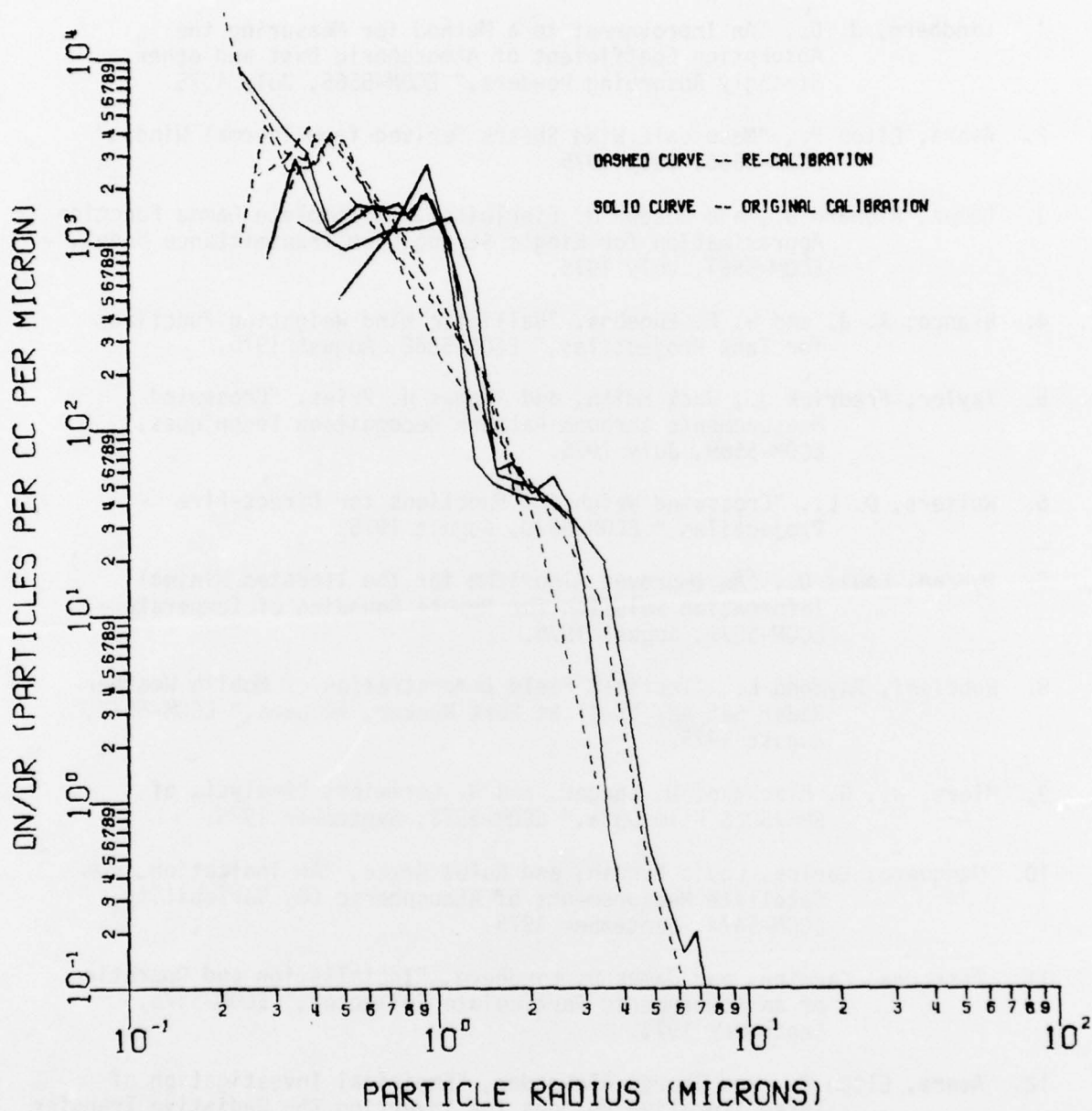


Figure 13. Particulate size distributions inferred from measurements of atmospheric fog made with the CSAS using the manufacturer calibration (solid curve) and the Mie theory recalibration (dashed curve).

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